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ized officers and men, not only of the British armies, but of the French." "It is," to quote the same judge, "a real book," in which, "truthfully, nakedly, vividly," even as Barbusse has done it for the French poilu, the process is described by which men "were trampled into obedience of soul and discipline" and made to endure "that devastating long-drawn boredom which is the characteristic of war and the cause of much of its suffering." The book also registers "the sense of futility which sinks into the soldier's mind, tends to sap his mental strength and embitters him, so that the edge is taken off his enthusiasm and he abandons the fervor of the ideal with which he volunteers." But let the fighter, who was such by the admission of all his comrades and superiors in military rank and who rose to be a major in the artillery, disclose his own state of mind as he reviews his experiences. "Shall we return to lying, hatred, and all malice and re-crucify Christ? What is the world travail for? . . . What does the present hold out to us who have been through the Valley of the Shadow? What does it look like to us who gaze down upon it from the pinnacle of four years upon the edge of eternity? This is what it looks like, this what it holds out: a corpse of what was once the most beautiful woman fast entering into decomposition." As a young Briton of birth, culture, and high ideals, he serves notice on the old men of the generation that brought on the war and that is muddling the peace that "the era of the young men has begun. Bent under the Atlas burden loaded upon their shoulders, they have stood daily for five years upon the edge of eternity. They have stared across into the eyes of Truth, some unrecognizing, others with disdain, but many there are in whose returning faces is the dawn of wisdom. . . . They ask that mankind should now concentrate on the art of giving life." Like his brother Philip, Major Gibbs has unusual narrative power, coupled with a reflective mind. Hence the story of his experience "lives" and will be rated as one of the best records coming out of the British army's ranks.

History of the United States from Hayes to McKinley. By *James Ford Rhodes*. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1919. Pp. 484.

This volume, supplementing his standard history of the nation from 1850 to 1877, which long since gave Mr. Rhodes an assured position in the honorable calling of historian, has not that perfection of form, careful revision, and coordination of material and weight of judgment noticeable in the earlier volumes. Too much of it is but the redaction of material furnished by one David M. Matteson, an investigator and thesis writer employed by the author to "get up" the facts.

Again, Mr. Rhodes in this volume has had to deal with issues upon which he as a citizen has taken sides prior to becoming an historian, and he has had to deal with men who either were personal friends or foes. Hence he has not preserved that balance of judgment which was noticeable in his earlier volumes. All the stock phrases of the class to which Mr. Rhodes belongs crop out when he discusses democracy *per se*, or labor and the masses. Nevertheless, the book is important, because with all its limitations it is the register of the opinion of a man who knows the craft of history writing, who had the advantage of personal acquaintance with many of the men about whom he writes, and whose judgments on the whole are correct. Admirers of Mr. Blaine will not like Mr. Rhodes' references to his personal character, but they will approve the historian's admissions respecting the statesman's prevision on matters of foreign policy. Mr. Cleveland's virtues, personal and administrative, are made to shine by the rays of the appraiser; but that he was quite wrong in his handling of the Venezuela boundary controversy Mr. Rhodes believes now, as he did at the time. Readers of the book will find unusually profitable at this time the somewhat disproportionate space given to the history of the greatest of the railway strikes of the last century and the rise and fall of the "Molly Maguires," the first "direct actionists" in the Pennsylvania coal fields, who, be it noted, were finally eliminated by due process of law, not by armed State constabulary or Federal troops.

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